



at a glance Aging and Adult Services in North Carolina

Summer 2006

2006-2007 State Budget Update

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There was good news in the 2006-2007 State Budget for seniors and younger adults with disabilities in what some advocates have described as one of the best years in some time. Here are some of the more prominent items:

- ❖ An increase of \$4 million in the Home and Community Care Block Grant. The Home and Community Care Block Grant provides funding for such assistance as home-delivered meals, in-home aide services and transportation.
- ❖ \$1,043,750 to support a \$5 per day increase in the daily rate for adult day care and adult day health care programs.
- ❖ \$392,136 to support eight new long-term care ombudsman positions to help address where North Carolina falls short of a national benchmark in the number of Ombudsmen needed relative to the number of nursing home and adult care home beds.
- ❖ \$100,000 to assist in continued development of an adult care home quality improvement program—a project that the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is leading.
- ❖ An increase in the number of participant slots available for the State/County Special Assistance In-Home Option, growing from 1,000 to 1,500. This program is designed to provide an alternative to placement in an adult care home.

In addition, there are funding increases in the rates for State/County Special Assistance (adult care homes), nursing home care, home health services, and personal care services. For more information about the legislature and the budget, go to <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us>.

Update on State/County Special Assistance (SA)

Information about the SA program can be found in two recently updated web pages located at the DAAS web site: “State-County Special Assistance for Adults”, which has a brief description of the Special Assistance Special Care Unit; and “State-County Special Assistance for Adults In-Home Program”, which contains links to a list of participating counties and the SA In-Home

brochure. The new/updated brochures are to be used when outreach is provided for the SA program. Both SA web pages may be accessed at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/service.htm>. The SA In-Home Program Annual Report, which was presented to the legislature in January 2006, can be reviewed at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/adultsvcs/SAInHomeFinalReport2006.pdf>.

As of July 1, 2006, there are 849 Special Assistance In-Home recipients in 72 participating counties in North Carolina.

For further information, **contact Geoff Santoliquido or Brenda Porter at 919-733-3818 or at geoff.santoliquido@ncmail.net or brenda.porter@ncmail.net.**

Good News for Aging Planning in North Carolina

In 2005, the U.S. Administration on Aging chose North Carolina as one of eight states to help develop a comprehensive and inclusive approach to planning for an aging population. DAAS and NC’s 17 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are leading this effort by establishing a new aging planning initiative. The initiative focuses on integrating three levels of planning activity—local, regional, and state, with an emphasis on strengthening local readiness for livable and senior-friendly communities. Working with the NC Association

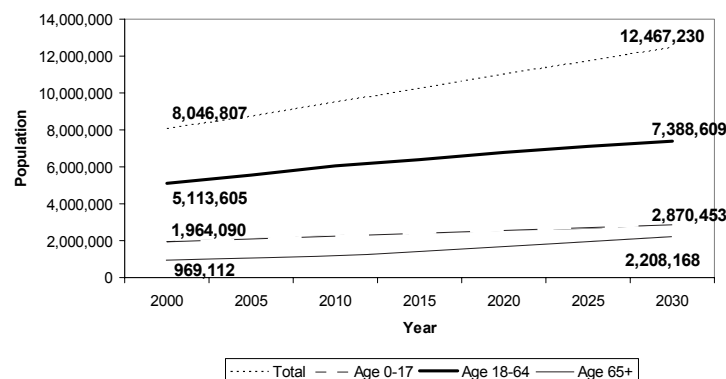
of County Commissioners, DAAS recently sent to County Managers and Commissioners information about the aging of their populations. Currently, 28 counties have more persons aged 60 and older than those aged 17 and younger. By 2030, it is projected that this will be the case in 75 counties. For more information about planning for North Carolina’s aging population, please see <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/demo.htm>.

Added good news about planning in North Carolina is the announce-

ment that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded the Haywood Community Partnership a \$750,000 grant to implement a strategic plan for the vulnerable and at risk older adults in Haywood County. This grant will assist the partnership in improving access to long term care and supportive services and in addressing identified gaps. Only eight communities across the nation were awarded this grant. Mountain Projects, Inc. is the lead agency for the project in Haywood County. For more information, see <http://www.haywoodconnections.com>.

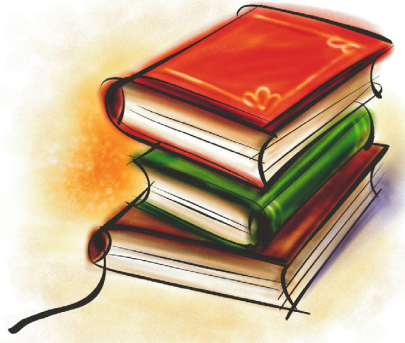
Projected Population Growth by Age Group in North Carolina (2000-2030)

Source: NC State Data Center



Transforming Libraries into Centers of Lifelong Learning for Older Adults

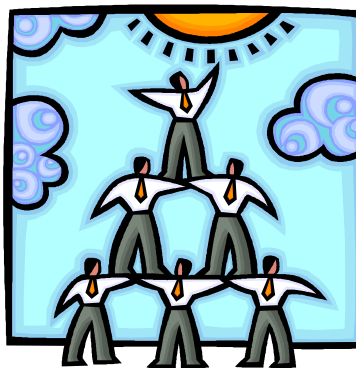
DAAS and the Area Agencies on Aging are committed to making our communities livable and senior friendly. As a part of this commitment, DAAS collaborates with many organizations to identify communities, policies, programs and practices that can serve as models for others to follow. Lifelong Access Libraries™ is a senior friendly initiative developed by Americans for Libraries Council (ALC) to transform libraries into centers of lifelong learning and civic engagement for active older adults. As a part of this initiative, ALC has selected Fellows to participate in its first annual Lifelong



Access Libraries Institute which was recently held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Institute focused on research in approaches to working with midlife and older adults, the Lifelong Access framework for new older adult services, and leadership and skills in community librarianship. DAAS was asked to meet with this initial class of Institute Fellows to talk about its work to promote livable and senior-friendly communities. For more information about the proposed new model for library services, see <http://www.lff.org/lifelong/index.php>.

Building Relationships between Senior Centers and Regional Resource Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

In North Carolina, about 1,030,000 people have hearing loss. People age 65 and older are eight times more likely than those below age 65 to have a hearing loss. These numbers will grow as Boomers are showing greater evidence of hearing loss than past generations. The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has seven Regional Resource Centers throughout the state to assist individuals who have hearing loss. Specialists from each of these regional



offices will facilitate a training session for the Ann Johnson Institute for

Senior Center Management on September 6-8. The specialists will conduct sensitivity training and will also explain various services and programs that the regional centers can offer to senior centers. For more information, see <http://dsdhh.dbhs.state.nc.us/> or <http://www.dbhs.state.nc.us/aging/sceneters/scinstit.htm>.

NC's Resident Companion Volunteer Visitation Program Is Recognized Nationally

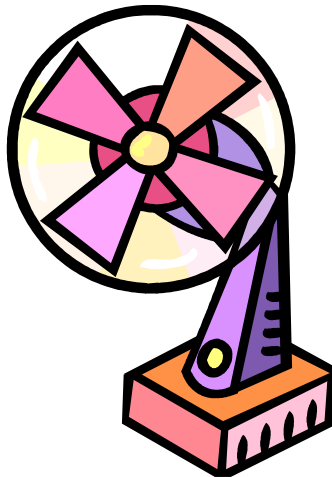
DAAS piloted a volunteer initiative in October 2005, the Resident Companion Volunteer Visitation Program, whose goal is to enhance social interaction and quality of life for residents who live in a long-term care facility and have

minimal visitation by relatives or friends. Still in its infancy, this program is a partnership of DAAS and a local nursing facility. It matches a volunteer with a resident in a long-term care facility for one-on-one visitation. This initiative is listed on

the web site of the National Long Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center at http://www.ltombudsman.org/ombpublic/251_1341_13047.cfm. For further information about it, contact Denise Rogers at (919) 733-8395, Denise.Rogers@ncmail.net.

Update on Operation Fan Relief

During an average summer, approximately 1,500 people die from excessive heat events in the United States. Most victims are 65 years of age and older. In North Carolina, Operation Fan / Heat Relief is a special emergency assistance project to help older North Carolinians cope with the heat. Funding assistance is available May through September of each year. This project is made possible by



contributions from Duke Energy Foundation, Progress Energy Services Company, LLC (CP&L), North Carolina Power, and Valassis Communications, Inc. For local information about Operation Fan/Heat Relief, see <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/fancolst.htm>. For tips about heat relief for an older population, see <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/heat.htm>.

Disaster Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations

Hurricane Katrina brought national attention to the challenges faced by vulnerable populations during catastrophe. With North Carolina's hurricane history, Katrina's challenges heightened local interest in disaster preparedness. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation awarded grants to 10 agencies across

the state that have innovative ideas for reaching vulnerable populations before and after emergencies. Two grant recipients have particular interest in aging and adult services. The Cape Fear Council of Governments is receiving \$28,000 to create a registry and map of vulnerable people in New Hanover, Brunswick,

Columbus and Pender counties. The Triangle United Way is receiving \$40,000 to train older adults and the agencies who serve them on disaster preparedness in Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties. A full listing of grant recipients can be found at http://www.bcbsnc.com/foundation/grants_over25.html.

Elder Abuse Prevention Network Established

Elder abuse is recognized as an “invisible problem” nationally and locally. Communities are often ill-prepared to identify and report elder abuse to the appropriate agency. The lack of education about community resources, agency roles and limitations, coupled with inadequate coordination of services among agencies, contributes to

fragmentation and duplication of services. The Cape Fear Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging was selected as one of only four agencies in the nation to receive technical assistance training from the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse to establish an Elder Abuse Prevention Network for Brunswick, Columbus, New

Hanover, and Pender counties. The Cape Fear Network is working to help facilitate and build momentum for a collaborative effort among a cross-section of various community agencies and groups. For more information, see www.capefearcog.org/aaa_special_initiatives.htm.

Combating Financial Exploitation of Older Adults and Those with Disabilities

Exploitation is often more difficult to detect than abuse or neglect. However, exploitation can be just as destructive for the victims because they may become impoverished and because exploitation may also be accompanied by coercion and other

psychological forms of abuse. The Spring 2006 edition of the Adult Services Practice Notes, prepared for DAAS by UNC Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES), focuses on the prevention

of and response to the financial exploitation of older adults and those with disabilities. The practice notes can be found at <http://ssw.unc.edu/cares/8-2exploitation%20with%20links.pdf>.

Identity Theft Facts

Top cities in NC with reported cases of Identity Theft in 2005 for all ages

**Charlotte
Raleigh
Greensboro
Durham
Fayetteville**

North Carolina ranks 21st in the US for the number of Identity Theft cases reported.

Credit Card fraud tops the list of how victims' information is misused.

S.A.F.E. in Long Term Care Trains 1st Class of Law Enforcement Officers

The SAFE Taskforce (Strategic Alliance for Elders in Long Term Care) training got off to a great start by educating law enforcement officers and other professionals concerned with the well-being of elderly and disabled adults in long term care. The training debuted in April 2006 at the NC Justice Academy's Eastern Campus in Salemburg with 16 students who traveled from cities all over the state to participate in this groundbreaking initiative.

The curriculum was developed by members of the taskforce who are in the human services field and the legal profession. Classes are taught in a lecture and interactive format and consist of ten distinct modules



covering such topics as the Aging Process, Types of Long Term Care Facilities, Legal Issues, Adult Protective Services, and Prosecution of Crimes Against the Elderly and Disabled. Additional classes were held during the month of May at the Justice Academy's Western Campus in Edneyville and again at the Eastern Campus in June. Classes will resume in September and will alternate between Eastern and Western locations until December. According

to Lorraine Galloway, Training Coordinator at the NC Justice Academy and S.A.F.E. member, "Law enforcement officers are eager for this type of training, especially since our population is aging and this is an issue that isn't discussed very much, but they will have to deal with more and more in the years ahead."

For additional information, please refer to the Division's Calendar of Events or contact a staff member in the Division's Ombudsman Program for further details at (919) 733-8395. Visit the DAAS website to download copies of the SAFE brochure. (<http://www.dbhs.state.nc.us/aging/ombud/ombtools.htm>)

The Cost of Caregiving to U.S. Businesses

A new study from the MetLife Mature Market Institute® (MMI) estimates that the cost to U.S. business due to lost productivity of working caregivers ranges from \$17.1 billion (intense caregivers) to \$33.6 billion per year (total caregivers).

The findings represent an increase of about \$4 billion in both categories from 1997 when the study was first

conducted. At that time, the productivity totals for both levels of care ranged from \$11.4 billion (intense caregivers) to \$29 billion (total caregivers). The entire version of The MetLife Caregiving Costs Study: Productivity Losses to U.S. Business can be found at: www.maturemarketinstitute.com under "What's New."

Employers who would like to calculate caregiving costs to their business in lost productivity each year, can log onto a workplace productivity calculator prepared in conjunction with the study at: <http://www.eldercarecalculator.org>.

NC Caregiver Study

North Carolina caregivers participated in an important study sponsored, in part, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Persons who identified themselves on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in 2005 as having provided regular care or assistance to someone with a long-term illness or disability were asked to participate in an in-depth follow-up interview. The in-depth interviews with 367 NC caregivers provide information on the relevance of caregiving, characteristics of



NC Family Caregiver Support Program *Completing the Care*

caregiving including duration frequency, type and burden, as well as environmental factors, service use, coping, and injury associated with caregiving.

Caregiver stress was identified as a national concern using this 2005 NC survey and the results of a nationwide BRFSS in 2000. (<http://rci.gsw.edu/pdfs/CaregiverStress.pdf>). The study has been released in a nationwide report, *Caregiving: A National Profile and Assessment of Caregiver Services and Needs*. From this report we can learn much about NC caregivers who may be outside of the traditional service delivery system. For the complete report, see http://www.rci.gsw.edu/pdfs/Caregiver_Report.pdf.

Carol Woods Retirement Community Receives Duke Endowment Grant

The Carol Woods Retirement Community in Orange County was recently awarded a grant by the Duke Endowment to bring together leaders in North Carolina to develop a collaborative model of service delivery for older adults, especially during times of transitions. As shared by Patricia Sprigg, President & CEO

of Carol Woods, "Currently, the transition to and from the hospital, coupled with the fragmentation of services within the community is a costly time for older adults, both in terms of the emotional and health impacts, as well as the financial costs. This impacts the state and federal budget tremendously." The first

initiative of the grant will be a Leadership Summit this Fall. For further information, **contact Heather Altman, project manager for the grant (919-918-2609) or haltman@carolwoods.org**.

DAAS Adult Services Training

Staff members at DAAS offer ongoing adult services training such as Adult Protective Services (APS), Guardianship, At-Risk Case Management, Adult Care Home Case Management and State/County Special Assistance. In addition to these routine programmatic trainings, DAAS now offers a series of three disaster

preparedness classes concerning special medical needs (SMN) populations and sheltering. The trainings are specifically designed for SMN coordinators and stakeholders. The current adult services training calendar for DAAS can be found at <http://www.dbhs.state.nc.us/aging/adultsvcs/TrainingCalendar.pdf>. DAAS also

works with the Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES), School of Social Work, UNC-Chapel Hill to offer continuing professional education for human services providers of older adults and their families. Details on CARES workshops can be found at <http://ssw.unc.edu/cares/trnall.htm>.

Upcoming Events

August

21st—22nd:

Annual Statewide Nutrition Program Conference

Millennium Hotel Durham

Registration forms will be mailed out very soon!

For more information contact Audrey Edmisten
at audrey.edmisten@ncmail.net or 919-733-0440.

September

6th—8th:

Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Center Management - Publicity-Marketing- Communications Training - Module VI

Wilmington Hilton Riverside,
Wilmington, North Carolina.

For more information, please contact Judy Smith
or Leslee Breen at 919-733-0440 or at
judy.smith@ncmail.net or leslee.breen@ncmail.net.

25th—Oct. 1st:

North Carolina State Finals 2006

Blockade Runner Beach Resort & Conference Center
in Wrightsville Beach. For more information, contact
Mark Hensley at the Division, (919) 733-8390 or
Mark.Hensley@ncmail.net.

at a glance

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October

25th—27th:

NC Aging Conference

Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park

For more information visit

<http://www.aging.unc.edu/nccoa/>.

25th—27th:

The 85th Social Services Institute

New Bern Riverfront Convention Center
in New Bern

Theme “SOS for DSS: Sharing Outcomes for Success”

For more information, visit

http://www.ncacdss.org/ncacdss/events/2006_SSI/2006_SSI.htm.